

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview conducted with the undersigned attorney on February 9, 2009. The arguments and amendments discussed at the interview are reflected in the remarks below.

Page 12, ¶ 6 has been amended to correct the spelling of the word "scheme."

Page 15, ¶ 5 has been amended to correct the order of numerals 75 and 76 in Fig. 10.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite a translation support system wherein the translation outputting section further reads out and outputs translations corresponding to the predetermined number of text elements preceding and/or succeeding the designated text element to the proofreader terminal. It is respectfully submitted that claim 9, as amended, is in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 10 has been amended to use a semicolon instead of a comma after the word "respectively" and to change the phrase "provisional translation" to "draft translation."

Claim 11 refers to a computer readable recording medium. The specification, page 21, has been amended to delete a description of the medium as comprising a carrier wave. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is in compliance with the statutory requirements of 35 USC 101.

Claims 1, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji USP 5,408,410 in view of Davis US Publication 20020157084. Claims 2-5 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji in view of Davis and further in view of D'Agostini US Publication 20030040900. These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11, as amended.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a translation support system connected to a translator terminal and to a proofreader terminal. Significantly, amended claim 1 is directed to a system comprising a combination of elements configured to assist both a translator and a proofreader. Both of these aspects of the claimed combination will be described in more detail below.

With respect to assisting a translator, amended claim 1 recites a combination of features including: (a) determining means for determining, based on a draft translation, whether or not the draft translation requires further translation and proofreading, (b) a second memory which stores the draft translation in a data field for storing draft translations requiring further translation and proofreading, based on the determination made by the determining means, and (c) a draft-translation outputting section for outputting, to the translator terminal, draft-translation information to be displayed by the translator terminal including an indication, for each text element, of whether or not the text element requires translation and proofreading determined based on the data field of the second memory in which the draft translation. Amended claim 1 thereby recites a second memory which stores data in a characteristic way that enables one to identify whether or not the draft translation requires further translation and proofreading. Claim 1, as amended, thereby makes clear that draft translations are classified as requiring - or not requiring - further translation and proofreading.

Support for amended claim 1 may be found, for example, at paragraph 0109 of the published application, which states: “For instance, the translator terminal 200 displays the translated text, which is not to be translated or proofread, in black, one to be translated in red...”. In the example described at paragraph 0109 the draft translation is shown in different colors to indicate whether or not the draft translation requires further translation. According to the system defined by amended claim 1, a translator can perform translation work more efficiently by translating only those draft translations indicated as “requiring further translation and proofreading” and not translating other translations. None of the cited references disclose or suggest a similar combination.

With respect to assisting a proofreader, the translation outputting means of the present invention transmits, to a proofreader terminal, translation information comprising the designated

text element and the translation of the text element saved in the third memory, wherein the translation is indicated as being a subject for proofreading.

Support for amended claim 1 may be found, for example, at paragraph 0109 of the published application, which states: “For instance, the translator terminal 200 displays ... one to be proofread in blue. . . “. Thus, it is evident that “the transmitted translation is indicated as being a target of proofreading” in the translation information. Since the target of proofreading is indicated in the information sent to the proofreader, the proofreader can easily recognize what should be proofread. The proofreader only needs to proofread the translation text that is indicated as being the subject of proofreading. The proofreader need not proofread text that has not yet been translated by the translator. The proofreader need not proofread draft translations that have been determined not to require further translation and proofreading.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a combination including the feature of indicating the type of the translated contents that are generated in the course of translation, in order to assist both a translator and a proofreader. None of the cited references disclose or suggest a combination wherein the content sent to the translator and to the proofreader are changed, so that the translator and the proofreader are able to carry out their own work. Also the claimed system stores what a translator and a proofreader have translated in the third memory and the past-translation data storing section, respectively. Thus a translator and a proofreader can each keep track of what they have translated.

The cited reference of D’Agostini discloses a system for assisting an “operator” to post-edit an automatically generated translation. D’Agostini’s “operator” is not a teaching or a suggestion of a “proofreader,” as defined by the amended claims. At most, some of the functions performed by D’Agostini’s operator may correspond to some of the functions performed by the translator described in the present application. However, the “proofreader” described and claimed in the present application proofreads what the translator has translated. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11, as amended, define a system configured to assist both a translator and a proofreader in different ways

in order to enhance the translation work as a whole. A similar combination is neither disclosed nor suggested in D'Agostini.

With specific regard to claim 10, D'Agostini fails to disclose or suggest a "color information storing means for storing color-designating information designating display colors of an original text, a draft translation, a translation and a proofread translation, respectively." D'Agostini fails to disclose or suggest a translation outputting means for "instructing said translator terminal and/or said proofreader terminal to output the original text, the ckf translation, the translation and the proofread translation, in accordance with the color-designating information stored in said color information storing means." At most, the system of D'Agostini may display the translated text in colors different from the original text. However, D'Agostini fails to disclose or suggest classifying the translations (into, for example: draft translations requiring further translation/draft translations not requiring further translation/translation/proofread translation/etc.). D'Agostini fails to disclose or suggest changing the colors for displaying translations of different classification.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 116692008200.

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